

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

D/A1497

он

Date _____

HC971 U.S. PRO
10/022719
12/20/01

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

Filed:

For: PROBLEM PARTITIONING METHOD AND SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

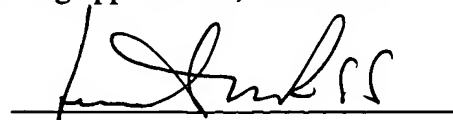
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) and information listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. One legible copy of each is attached to the PTO-1449 Form. It is respectfully requested that the references and information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of the above application (which is not a CPA), **OR** (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. *No certification or fee is required.*
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date **AND** after the date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance, or other action that closes prosecution. Please debit Xerox Corporation Deposit Account 24-0025 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). *(A copy of this paper is attached.)*
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance; **AND**
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1); **(OR)**

Application No.

- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c), more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2)
- ☐ 4. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Please debit Xerox Corporation Deposit Account 24-0025 in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) (*A copy of this paper is attached*); **AND**
- ☐ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(1); **(OR)**
- ☐ b. I hereby certify that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e)(2)
- ☐ 5. Per 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3), a concise explanation of the relevance of each of any submitted item that is NOT in the English language is either enclosed herewith, or incorporated in the application specification.
- ☐ 6. A copy of an English language version of an above-referenced counterpart foreign application search report is attached.
- ☐ 7. Copies of some or all of the subject references were cited by, or submitted to the Office in related parent Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached (except for copies of cited pending applications). 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).
- ☐ 8. A copy of each copending application recited in the parent application of paragraph 7 above, and/or a copy of other related copending applications, is enclosed.



Linda M. Robb

Signature under 37 CFR 1.33 & 34

Registration No. 41,273

Telephone No. 310-333-3683

Date 12/18/2001

Form PTO-1449 US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY DOCKET NO. D/A1497	APPLICATION NO.
	APPLICANT Markus Fromherz et al.	
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS
TRH	6,088,690	7/11/2000	Gounares et al.	706	13
MES	6,144,953	11/7/2000	Sorrells et al.	706	60
RWD	5,870,731	2/9/1999	Trif et al.	706	52

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	COUNTRY	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	NAME OF PATENTEE OR APPLICANT	TRANSLATION Y/N

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author (in CAPS), Title, Publication Date, Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.